

IN THE CLAIMS

A listing of the claims including proposed amendments follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A process for the manufacture of a coating ~~or doctoring~~ blade comprising a band of ~~steel or other form-stable material~~ metal and a wear-resistant polymer coating applied on said band along a longitudinal edge section thereof subjected to wear, characterized by the following steps:
 - a) providing continuous relative movement between said band and an application and treatment station;
 - b) continuously applying at said station a fast curing polymer composition along said edge section;
 - c) allowing the applied composition to spread out so as to reach the very extreme of said edge section and then to cure to form an elastic and tacky-free coating; and, optionally
 - d) post-curing the coating at an increased temperature.

2. (Currently Amended) A process for the manufacture of a coating ~~or doctoring~~ blade comprising a first band of ~~steel or other form-stable material~~ metal and a wear-resistant polymer coating applied on said band along a longitudinal edge section thereof subjected to wear, characterized by the following steps:

- a) providing continuous relative movement between a second band of double width compared to said first band and an application and treatment station;

b) continuously supplying at said station a fast-curing composition along a longitudinal central section of double width compared to said edge section;

c) allowing the applied composition to spread out to the desired width and then to cure to form an elastic and tacky-free coating and, optionally, post-curing the coating at an increased temperature; and

d) longitudinally cutting said second band along the middle of the coated central section thereof to form two tip-coated blades.

3. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 1, characterized by roughening said edge ~~(5) or central section (13)~~ before application step b) to improve adhesion of the coating.

4. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 1, characterized by the application of a primer before application step b) to ~~further~~ improve adhesion of the coating.

5. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein said fast-curing polymer composition has a pot-life of about 5 to 30 seconds.

6. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein said polymer composition is based on a polymer selected from polyurethanes, styrene-butadien polymers,

polyolefins, nitrile rubbers, natural rubbers, polyacrylates, polychloroprene, thermoplastic elastomers, and polysiloxanes.

7. (Original) A process according to claim 6, wherein said polymer is a polyurethane.

8. (Original) A process according to claim 7, wherein a 3component liquid polyurethane composition containing a prepolymer, a polyol and a chain extender is continuously mixed with a catalyst solution and the mixture is then applied onto said band.

9. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein said polymer is applied with a width of about 5 to 40 mm and a thickness of about 1 to 3 mm.

10. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 1, wherein said polymeric coating after curing is subjected to a grinding operation to obtain a desired profile.

11. (Currently Amended) A ~~coating~~ or doctoring blade prepared by the process according to any one of the preceding claims.

12. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 2, characterized by roughening said ~~edge (5) or central section (13)~~ before application step b) to improve adhesion of the coating.

13. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 2, characterized by the application of a primer before application step b) to ~~further~~ improve adhesion of the coating.

14. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 3, characterized by the application of a primer before application step b) to ~~further~~ improve adhesion of the coating.

15. (Currently Amended) A process according to claim 12, characterized by the application of a primer before application step b) to ~~further~~ improve adhesion of the coating.

16. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 2, wherein said fast-curing polymer composition has a pot-life of about 5 to 30 seconds.

17. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 3, wherein said fast-curing polymer composition has a pot-life of about 5 to 30 seconds.

18. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 2, wherein said polymer composition is based on a polymer selected from polyurethanes, styrene-butadien polymers, polyolefins, nitrile rubbers, natural rubbers, polyacrylates, polychloroprene, thermoplastic elastomers, and polysiloxanes.

19. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 3, wherein said polymer composition is based on a polymer selected from polyurethanes, styrene-butadien polymers, polyolefins, nitrile rubbers, natural rubbers, polyacrylates, polychloroprene, thermoplastic elastomers, and polysiloxanes.

20. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 2, wherein said polymer is applied with a width of about 5 to 40 mm and a thickness of about 1 to 3 mm.

21. (Previously Presented) A process according to claim 2, wherein said polymeric coating after curing is subjected to a grinding operation to obtain a desired profile.